# MINUTES OF MISSISSIPPI TORT CLAIMS BOARD THURSDAY, MARCH 30, 2017

The Mississippi Tort Claims Board (Board) meeting was held at 1:30 p.m. in Room 138, Woolfolk State Office Building; 501 North West Street; Jackson, Mississippi.

The following members were present, constituting a quorum:

Edds, Steve; Chairman

Chaney, Mike; Insurance Commissioner

Fisher, Marshall; Commissioner of Public Safety

Fitch, Lynn; State Treasurer

Jackson, Laura; Executive Director, MS Department of Finance and Administration

Rikard, Gary; Executive Director, MS Department of Environmental Quality

Whitley, Onetta; Deputy Attorney General, Representing Attorney General Jim Hood

#### Also present were:

Donaldson, Bruce; Tort Claims Board

Eads, Jay; Attorney General's Office, Department of Public Safety

Gillard, Chris; Department of Public Safety

Graham, Jesse; Deputy State Treasurer

Kelly, Trina; Tort Claims Board

Kelsey, Christina; MS Insurance Department

Logan, Jim; Tort Claims Board

McElroy, Lea Ann; Tort Claims Board

Milner, Steve; Tort Claims Board

Rayburn, Amanda; Cannon Cochran Management Services, Inc.

Smith, Dan; Attorney General's Office

Wells, Teresa; Tort Claims Board

Wilson, Jeff; Trinity Capital

Younger, Jim; Department of Public Safety

The Chairman called the meeting to order.

Motion was made by Commissioner Chaney to approve the minutes of the January 12, 2017, meeting. Mrs. Jackson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

In Old Business, Mrs. McElroy provided a legislative update.

In New Business, Mrs. McElroy presented a recommendation to exercise the option to renew the contract with actuary Chris Burkhalter for one year after the current contract expires June 30, 2017. Commissioner Chaney moved to approve and Mrs. Jackson seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Logan presented financial report for fiscal year 2017 through February 28, 2017. Total expenses are just over \$3.2 million. After taking the budget cuts ordered by the Governor in January and February, we are left with a General Fund balance of \$1.4 million. Claim payments total just over \$2.1 million, and legal expenses total \$513,718. The Average Claim Paid for the period is just over \$4,000 and Average Reserve is just over \$18,000. Looking at the Budget Comparison Report, the important thing to note is that we have spent nearly 70% of our Subsidies budget and just under 70% of our total budget when we're only two-thirds of the way through the fiscal year. As a note, all budget cuts were taken from the Contractual category.

Mr. Wilson presented the investment report through February 2017. The portfolio has a book value just over \$13.25 million, with an internal rate of return that is up to 1.1% and a book yield just under 2%. The weighted average life of our portfolio is 2.7 years, which we will reassess in August. We are earning just under \$120,000 for the calendar year, with just under \$40,000 in interest.

Mr. Milner provided members a report of his Loss Control activities since the last Board meeting, noting his post-tornado safety assessments in Hattiesburg and emergency support with MEMA and the Department of Health.

Mrs. McElroy presented three (3) attorneys for inclusion on the approved Attorney Register: Peter C. Abide of Currie Johnson & Myers, P.A. in Biloxi; Arthur H. Calderon of Carr Calderon, PLLC in Cleveland; and David E. Stovall of Wilkins, Patterson, Smith, Pumphrey & Doty, P.A. in Jackson. All meet the eligibility requirements of the Board and staff recommends approval. Mrs. Jackson moved to approve and Commissioner Chaney seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. McElroy presented a list of 26 political subdivisions with the recommendation that all be approved for renewal of Certificates of Coverage. Mrs. Jackson made a motion to approve the list and Commissioner Chaney seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous vote.

For the Claims Report, Mrs. McElroy provided the Board information regarding the denial of a claim for Diamond Lemon, who was involved in an automobile accident with Trooper Rodney Williams at the Ray of Hope daycare in Grenada. Commissioner Fisher spoke to members regarding his request for reconsideration of the claim. Following discussion, Commissioner Chaney made a motion to pay the claim. State Treasurer Lynn Fitch seconded the motion, which carried.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned.

STEVE EDDS, CHAIRMAN
Miko Chency Bollfk) MIKE CHANEY, BOARD MEMBER
LYNN FITCH, BOARD MEMBER  Leigh Suche fanous on behaf of M. Langurd  JIM HOOD, BOARD MEMBER
LAURA D. JACKSON, BOARD MEMBER  GARY RIKARD, BOARD MEMBER

MARSHALL FISHER, BOARD MEMBER

Mississippi Tort Claims Board March 30, 2017 – 1:30pm Conference Center North, Room 138 First Floor, Woolfolk Building Jackson, Mississippi

# **ATTENDANCE LIST**

NAME NAME	DEPARTMENT/COMPANY
Steven milner	TOB
Leresa Wills	MTCB
Chin Hilland	MHP
DAY TASS	Nes
JIM YOUNGER	Des
Jefferen	Trivity Capital
tha	TCB
LEA KIN MEELIZOY	TCB
Dong Chippe	MOJQ
Roll Danedson	TCB
Chuta J. Thel	MID
Dan Smith	AG
Jamal Jadby	DA
San Chang	mib
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Jun July	TORT
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# Mississippi Tort Claims Board Thursday, March 30, 2017 – 1:30 P.M.

#### **AGENDA**

- I. Approval of Minutes A. January 12, 2017
- II. Old Business
  A. Legislative Update
- III. New Business
  A. Actuary Contract Bickerstaff, Whatley, Ryan & Burkhalter
- IV. Financial Reports
   A. Financial Report Jim Logan
   B. Investment Report Jeff Wilson
- V. Loss Control Steve Milner
- VI. Attorney General's Report Lea Ann McElroy
- VII. Certificates of Coverage Lea Ann McElroy
- VIII. Claims Report Lea Ann McElroy
  A. Diamond Lemon (DPS/Trooper Rodney Williams)
- IX. Adjournment

# MINUTES OF MISSISSIPPI TORT CLAIMS BOARD THURSDAY, JANUARY 12, 2017

The Mississippi Tort Claims Board (Board) meeting was held at 1:30 p.m. in Room 138, Woolfolk State Office Building; 501 North West Street; Jackson, Mississippi.

The following members were present, constituting a quorum:

Edds, Steve; Chairman

Lanford, Mike; Deputy Attorney General, Representing Attorney General Jim Hood

Graham, Jesse; Deputy State Treasurer, Representing Treasurer Lynn Fitch

Jackson, Laura; Executive Director, MS Department of Finance and Administration

Kelsey, Christina; Representing Insurance Commissioner Mike Chaney, MS Insurance Department

#### Also present were:

Donaldson, Bruce; Tort Claims Board
Eads, Jay; Attorney General's Office, Department of Public Safety
Huerta, Christina; Office of the State Treasurer
Kelly, Trina; Tort Claims Board
Logan, Jim; Tort Claims Board
McElroy, Lea Ann; Tort Claims Board
Preziosi, Misti; Office of the State Treasurer
Smith, Dan; Attorney General's Office
Wilson, Jeff; Trinity Capital
Wells, Lisa; Cannon Cochran Management Services, Inc.

The Chairman called the meeting to order.

Motion was made by Mrs. Jackson to approve the minutes of the November 10, 2016, meeting. Mrs. Kelsey seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

There was no Old Business.

In New Business, Mrs. McElroy presented a proposal for a liability claims audit from Tim Farley of Farley Management, Inc. and recommended approval of a contract for an audit to take place March 22-24, 2017. Mrs. Kelsey moved to approve and Mr. Lanford seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Also in New Business, Mrs. McElroy presented the Investment Policy which must be approved annually by the Board. No changes were made from the 2016 version. Mr. Graham

made a motion to approve the policy and Mr. Lanford seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous vote.

Lastly, Mrs. McElroy provided a legislative update for the Board regarding our requested bill.

Mr. Logan presented financial report for fiscal year 2017 through December 31, 2016. Total expenses are just under \$2.9 million. That leaves us with a General Fund balance of just under \$2 million. Claim payments total just over \$2 million, and legal expenses total \$334,504. The Average Claim Paid for the period is \$4,671 and Average Reserve is just under \$14,000. Looking at the Budget Comparison Report, the important thing to note is that we have spent nearly 70% of our Subsidies budget and just under 60% of our total budget at the halfway point in the fiscal year.

Mr. Wilson presented the investment report through December 2016. The portfolio has a book value just over \$13.2 million, with an internal rate of return of just over 1.5%. The weighted average life of our portfolio is just over 1.5 years, with earning at just over \$175,000 for the calendar year. He reviewed portfolio composition and maturity distribution, noting that we are over-weighted in the first twelve months but they are working to push that out to the 2-4 year range to even out liabilities and improve the rate of return. Lastly he reviewed the performance of the portfolio compared against the Custom Index and Total Return.

In Mr. Milner's absence, Mrs. McElroy provided members a report of his Loss Control activities since the last Board meeting.

There was no Attorney General's Report.

Mrs. McElroy presented a list of 53 political subdivisions with the recommendation that all be approved for renewal of Certificates of Coverage. Mrs. Kelsey made a motion to approve the list and Mr. Lanford seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous vote.

Mr. Donaldson provided a brief claim update including the fact that as of today we have set up 526 claims, about 100 less than this time last year. However, he urged Board members not to read anything into that statistic - we'll have to see how this year continues to play out.

The Chairman noted that he will be out of town on March 9<sup>th</sup> – the scheduled date for the next Board meeting. Members agreed to tentatively move the meeting to March 23<sup>rd</sup> to fit his schedule and avoid any potential Spring Break conflicts.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned.



MIKE CHANEY, BOARD MEMBER

LYNN RITCH BOARD MEMBER

JAN HOOD, BOARD MEMBER

LAURA D. JACKSON, BOARD MEMBER

GARY RIKARD, BOARD MEMBER

ALBERT SANTA CRUZ, BOARD MEMBER

# **Tort Claims Act Legislation Summary**

2017 Legislative Session

SB3015 Clarke Conference Report Adopted (3/27) general funds, capital expense funds, and special funds for FY17 and FY18 Additional appropriation of beginning upon passage and through June 30, 2018 appropriation out of "any money to the credit of DFA" \$1,585,056 deficit

as of 03/29/2017 11:00am



STEPHEN C. EDDS, CHAIRMAN

MIKE CHANEY, Commissioner Insurance Department MARSHALL L. FISHER, Commissioner Department of Public Safety LYNN FITCH, Treasurer Department of Treasury JIM HOOD, Attorney General
Office of Attorney General
LAURA D. JACKSON, Executive Director
Department of Finance and Administration
GARY RIKARD, Executive Director
Department of Environmental Quality

#### **MEMORANDUM**

TO: MS Tort Claims Board

FROM: Lea Ann McElroy DATE: March 30, 2017

**RE:** Actuary Contract Option

**RECOMMENDATION:** Staff recommends approval of contract renewal as noted.

Chris Burkhalter of Bickerstaff Whatley Ryan & Burkhalter – Mr. Burkhalter's current contract expires June 30, 2017; however, "the Board shall have the option to renew this contract under the same terms herein for a period of one (1) year after the expiration of the term herein." This request is to exercise that one year option to run through June 30, 2018. Terms are as follows:

1-year option through June 30, 2018 \$11,000

Work on other projects as directed will be billed at \$200/hour.

#### Combined Financial Report - Fiscal Year 2017 General Fund 2208000000

	000.0	January	 February	`	Year-To-Date
GENERAL FUND EXPENSES:		·	•		
Claim Losses - TCB only		6,509.24	2,650.53		85,914.81
Legal Expenses - TCB only		153,496.81	25,717.96		513,718.33
Other Expenses - TCB only		0.00	0.00		0.00
Administrative Expenses Paid		127,272.51	59,597.67		666,396.57
Transfer of Funds - Out to TPA		0.00	0.00		2,000,000.00
Total Expenses	\$	287,278.56	\$ 87,966.16	\$	3,266,029.71
GENERAL FUND BALANCE:					
Beginning Balance	\$	1,966,391.01	\$ 1,607,294.45		
Expenses		(287,278.56)	(87,966.16)		
Adjustment (Budget Reduction)		(71,818.00)	(71,747.00)		
Total General Fund Balance	\$	1,607,294.45	\$ 1,447,581.29		
Less Reserves	\$	7,920,120.60	\$ 8,162,586.45		
General Fund less Reserves	\$	(6,312,826.15)	\$ (6,715,005.16)		
	11.000		 **		

# ----CLAIMS/RESERVES DETAIL (Year-To-Date)----

	Tort Board		Mgt. Services		TOTAL	
Claims - Payments	\$	85,914.81	\$	2,086,736.88	\$	2,172,651.69
Claims - Legal Expenses		513,718.33		-		513,718.33
Claims - Other Expenses		***		12,800.30		12,800.30
Total Paid Out to Date	\$	599,633.14	\$	2,099,537.18	\$	2,699,170.32
OUTSTANDING RESERVES		413,819.81		7,748,766.64		8,162,586.45
Total Claims & Reserves	\$	1,013,452.95	\$	9,848,303.82		10,861,756.77
Number of Claims Created		324		295		619
Number of Claims Paid		222		297		519
Total Open Claims		136		306		442
AVG. CLAIM \$ / # CLAIMS PAID		\$387.00		\$7,026.05	\$	4,186.23
AVG. RESERVE / OPEN CLAIMS		\$3,042.79		\$25,322.77	\$	18,467.39

NOTE: Information represents combined operations for General Fund 2208000000 and the Trustmark account (utilized by CCMSI).

Budget Comparison Report General Fund 2208000000 Fiscal Year 2017

Expenses:	Total Budget	January 2017	February 2017	ı	Year To Date Expenditures	Ending Balance	Percent Expended
A1-Salaries	\$ 560,000.00	\$ 46,165.71	\$ 46,164.91	\$	369,919.24	\$ 190,080.76	66.06%
A2-Travel	4,000.00	0.00	0.00		2,089.95	1,910.05	52.25%
B-Contractual	1,140,667.00	234,407.51	38,849.54		805,452.50	335,214.50	70.61%
C-Commodities	7,000.00	196.10	301.18		2,653.21	4,346.79	37.90%
D2-Capital Outlay	1,500.00	0.00	0.00		0.00	1,500.00	0.00%
E-Subsidies	3,000,444.00	6,509.24	2,650.53		2,085,914.81	914,529.19	69.52%
SUBTOTAL	\$ 4,713,611.00	\$ 287,278.56	\$ 87,966.16	\$	3,266,029.71	\$ 1,447,581.29	<u>69.29</u> %
TPA Expended		102,736.35	59,606.10		<u>2,099,537.18</u>		
TOTAL Combined		\$ 390,014.91	\$ 147,572.26	<u>\$</u>	5,365,566.89		



March 2, 2017

Ms. Lea Ann McElroy Mississippi Tort Claims Board P O Box 267 Jackson, MS 39205-0267

Re: February 2017 Portfolio Highlights

Total Portfolio	Book Value	\$13,268,812
	Market Value	\$13,155,139
FY 2017 Internal Rate of Return		1.12%
Current Portfolio Book Yield		1.87%
Market Yield		2.08%
Weighted Average Life		Approximately 3.7 years
FY 2017 Earnings		118,977
Accrued Interest		39,647



STEPHEN C. EDDS, CHAIRMAN

MIKE CHANEY, Commissioner Insurance Department MARSHALL L. FISHER, Commissioner Department of Public Safety LYNN FITCH, Treasurer Department of Treasury JIM HOOD, Attorney General
Office of Attorney General
LAURA D. JACKSON, Executive Director
Department of Finance and Administration
GARY RIKARD, Executive Director
Department of Environmental Quality

#### **MEMORANDUM**

TO:

Mississippi Tort Claims Board

FROM:

Steve Milner

DATE:

March 30, 2017

RE:

Loss Control Report

Since the last Board Meeting, loss control services for the Tort Claims Board include:

- 14 Ride a Longs
- 22 State Property/Leased Property Inspections
  - 2 Risk Management Consultation
  - 6 Defensive Driving Classes
  - 2 Post Tornado Safety Assessments
  - 9 Accident Investigations
  - 6 Highway Construction Safety Assessments
  - 1 Emergency Support Function Meeting



STEPHEN C. EDDS, CHAIRMAN

MIKE CHANEY, Commissioner Insurance Department MARSHALL L. FISHER, Commissioner Department of Public Safety LYNN FITCH, Treasurer Department of Treasury JIM HOOD, Attorney General
Office of Attorney General
LAURA D. JACKSON, Executive Director
Department of Finance and Administration
GARY RIKARD, Executive Director
Department of Environmental Quality

#### **MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Mississippi Tort Claims Board

**FROM:** Lea Ann McElroy **DATE:** March 30, 2017

**RE:** Additions to Defense Attorney List

**RECOMMENDATION:** Staff recommends approval of (3) attorneys for

inclusion on Defense Attorney List

Honorable Peter C. Abide Currie Johnson & Myers, P.A. Biloxi, Mississippi 39532

Honorable Arthur H. Calderon Carr Calderon, PLLC Cleveland, Mississippi 38732

Honorable David E. Stovall Wilkins, Patterson, Smith, Pumphrey & Doty, P.A. Jackson, Mississippi 39211

# CURRIE JOHNSON CURRIE JOHNSON & MYERS, P.A.

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Peter C. Abide pabide@curriejohnson.com

925 Tommy Munro Drive Suite H Biloxi, Mississippi 39532

Telephone: 228-385-1010 Fax: 228-385-1011 www.curriejohnson.com

March 8, 2017

JACKSON OFFICE:

1044 River Oaks Drive Jackson, Mississippi 39232 Telephone: 601-969-1010

Lee Ann McElroy, Administrator Mississippi Tort Claims Board P.O. Box 267 Jackson, MS 39205

RE: Consideration for Inclusion on Mississippi Tort Claims Board

Counsel Panel

Dear Ms. McElroy:

Please accept this letter as my request to be considered for approval to represent the Mississippi Tort Claims Board and all of its covered political subdivisions, entities, agencies and institutions.

I am a member in good standing with the Mississippi Bar and have practiced insurance defense law for almost 30 years. Attached for your review is my current resume.

Thank you for your consideration to allow me to serve as counsel for the Mississippi Tort Claims Board. If you have any questions or need any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

CURRIE JOHNSON & MYERS, P.A.

Peter C. Abide

PCA/ls Enclosure



# Peter C. Abide

**CURRIE JOHNSON** 

LAW FIRM
Attorneys at Law
925 Tommy Munro Drive
Suite H
Biloxi, Mississippi 39532
(228) 385-1010
(228) 385-1011 fax
pabide@curriejohnson.com

Primary practice areas: Insurance defense, Municipal Law

Current clients: State Farm, City of Biloxi, AIG, Zurich, Coast Electric

Work experience: Over seventy jury trials over the last twenty-six years, almost all of these as solo attorney. My practice is focused on personal injury defense of all types, with an emphasis on automobile, utility work, and commercial litigation. Since 2004 I have been managing partner of Currie Johnson's Gulf Coast office located in Biloxi Commerce Park. I am currently serving as City Attorney for the City of Biloxi.

AV Rating-Martindale Hubbell; Top-Rated Lawyer-Insurance (Martindale); 2014, 2015, 2016 Mid-South Super Lawyers (Personal Injury General-Defense)

Admitted: 1986, Mississippi; 1987, U.S. District Court, Southern District of Mississippi, U.S. Court of Appeals, Fifth Circuit and U.S. Supreme Court

Law School: University of Mississippi, J.D., 1986

College: Louisiana State University, B.S. Accounting, 1981

Biography: Phi Delta Phi. Research Editor and Casenote Editor, Mississippi Law Journal, 1985-1986. Author: Note, "Demand Futility and the Business Judgment Rule," 55:1 Mississippi Law Journal, 1985; "Supreme Court Review - Contracts, Corporations and Commercial Law," 56:1 Mississippi Law Journal, 1985. Law Clerk to Justice Armis Hawkins, 1986-1987.

Personal: Born October 23, 1959; I have been a resident of Biloxi since 1987 B. C. (Before Casinos). I have been married to Judy Abide since 1991 and we have three daughters. I am an active member of several local civic organizations, Biloxi Chamber, and Gulf Coast Chamber.



303 Cotton Row P.O. Box 1818 Cleveland, MS 38732 Phone: (662) 545-4445 Fax: (662) 796-3689 mcarr@carrcalderon.com arthur@carrcalderon.com

February 17, 2017

#### VIA CERTIFIED MAIL

Mississippi Tort Claims Board ATTN: Lea Ann McElroy, Administrator 501 North West Street, Suite 1301-C Jackson, MS 39201

Dear Board,

My name is Arthur Calderón, and I am writing to express my interest in being added to the Tort Claims Approved Attorney Register for the Mississippi Tort Claims Board.

I am a law partner at Carr Calderon, PLLC, a niche-practice law firm in Cleveland, Mississippi that focuses on representing political subdivisions. At our firm, my law partner, Michael Carr, and I have represented governmental entities in litigation brought under 42 U.S.C. § 1983 and the Mississippi Tort Claims Act, including cases involving excessive force claims, wrongful detention, and overtime pay violations. Additionally, we also represent various political subdivisions in worker's compensation actions.

As a public sector defense firm, we pride ourselves in demonstrating results to our clients. For example, in *Indianola v. Riggins et al.*, we represented the City of Indianola in a wrongful death action brought in federal court. In that case, Indianola was granted summary judgment as to the 1983 claim, because the plaintiff failed to demonstrate a constitutional violation and satisfy the requisite deliberate indifference standard. Similarly, in *Atwood v. Chency et al.*, we represented Attala County Sheriff Tim Nail in an unlawful arrest claim. In that case, we successfully moved for summary judgment based on qualified immunity.

Because of my experience, I have been recognized as a Rising Star by Mid-South Super Lawyers in the area of State, Local, and Municipal Law, and am regularly invited to give presentations, including CLEs, across the state regarding liability issues in the public sector.

Enclosed with this letter is a copy of my résumé. I would enjoy the opportunity to discuss my qualifications with you at your convenience. I can be contacted at arthur@carrcalderon.com, or on my cell, 601-718-7084. Thank you, and I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

Arthur H. Calderón

# ARTHUR H. CALDERÓN

609 South Fifth Avenue • Cleveland, Mississippi 38732 • Phone: 601-718-7084 • arthurhcalderon@gmail.com https://www.linkedin.com/in/arthurhcalderon

#### RELEVANT WORK EXPERIENCE

#### City Attorney, January 2016-Present

Alligator, Mississippi

Provide oral and written legal opinions to mayor and board of aldermen; advise municipality on ethics, open meeting requirements, and parliamentary processes; review all contracts involving municipality; draft municipal legislation; attend board meetings; advise on proposed courses of action or policy questions.

#### City Attorney, September 2016-Present

Shelby, Mississippi

Provide oral and written legal opinions to mayor, board of aldermen, and other municipal staff; advise municipality on ethics, open meeting requirements, and parliamentary processes; contemplate and draft municipal legislation; advise on legal ramifications of pending or potential litigation; review all contracts where municipality is a party; attend board meetings and other municipal-related meetings; advise on proposed courses of action or policy questions, including matters related to wage and hour, law enforcement, and economic development.

#### Managing Partner, February 2016–Present

Carr & Calderon, Cleveland, Mississippi

Defend governmental entities in actions involving the Mississippi Tort Claims Act, worker's compensation, and 42 U.S.C. § 1983; act as general counsel for local and regional for-profit and non-profit business entities; advise and counsel regional organizations on matters concerning business and economic development within the Mississippi Delta.

#### Special Project Consultant, December 2015-April 2016

Delta State University College of Business DEBTS Program, Cleveland, Mississippi

Advised entrepreneurs and partnering programs on matters concerning intellectual property, corporate law, and economic development.

#### Associate, February 2015–March 2016

Griffith & Carr, Cleveland, Mississippi

Defended governmental entities and officials in litigation concerning the Mississippi Tort Claims Act and 42 U.S.C. § 1983, including excessive force, premises liability, and discrimination claims; assisted partner with city attorney duties for Ruleville, Mississippi, by providing research, oral opinions, and written opinions on matters affecting the municipality, and attending monthly board meetings.

#### Judicial Clerk, March 2014-January 2015

The Honorable Albert B. Smith, III, Eleventh Circuit District Court of Mississippi, Cleveland, Mississippi

#### Associate Executive Director, September 2013–November 2013

Mississippi Volunteer Lawyers Project, Jackson, Mississippi

Developed and maintained partnerships with Mississippi judiciary, Bar, and other nonprofits to increase access to justice across Mississippi; developed marketing and fundraising strategies.

#### Staff Attorney, Director of Self-Represented Litigant Project, October 2011–September 2013

Mission First Legal Aid Office, Jackson, Mississippi

Represented low-income clients in civil matters, including business, consumer, and intellectual property law; developed and coordinated project to increase *pro se* litigants' access to trial-level courts.

#### **EDUCATION**

Mississippi College School of Law, J.D., cum laude, May 2011

Honors: Order of Barristers; Legal Research Fellow; AmJur Awards – Legal Writing I and II, Counseling & Negotiation; Adams & Reese Pro Bono Award

Activities: Moot Court Board, Phi Delta Phi, Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition; Ogletree Deakins Mississippi Moot Court Championship; International Law Society (President)

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY, B.S. in Psychology, cum laude, December 2003

#### **BAR ADMISSIONS**

All state and federal courts in Mississippi

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit

#### PROFESSIONAL AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Mississippi Bar Association, 2011-Present Leadership Forum (2016) Delta Young Lawyers (President, 2016-Present) Young Lawyers Division (2011-Present) Government Law Section

Bolivar County Bar Association, 2014-Present Vice-President, 2016-Present

American Bar Association, 2008-Present State and Local Government Law Section Young Lawyers Division Litigation Section

Defense Research Institute
Governmental Liability Committee
Young Lawyers Committee

#### RECENT DECISIONS

Riggins v. City of Indianola, 2016 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 96549 (N.D. Miss. July 25, 2016) Atwood v. Cheney et al., Cause No. 1:12-CV-168-A-S (S.D. Miss. July 14, 2016) Starks v. Keys, 2016 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 40226 (N.D. Miss. March, 28, 2016)

#### SELECTED PUBLICATIONS AND SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- "K-9 Units and Excessive Force: A Look at the Fifth Circuit's Cooper v. Brown Decision," Defense Research Institute Government Liability Blog, January 3, 2017.
- "Ethical Issues in Drug Court", presentation to the Mississippi Association of Drug Court Professionals at its annual conference, Tupelo, MS, August 25, 2016.
- "Claims Against Public Entities Under the Mississippi Tort Claims Act and 42 U.S.C. Section 1983," CLE presentation at Mississippi College School of Law, July 22, 2016.
- "Mississippi School Law for Beginning Teachers: Impact of the Mississippi Tort Claims Act in the Classroom", presentation for Teach for America Summer Institute, Delta State University, Cleveland, MS, July 20, 2016.

- "Spotlight on Cleveland School District: A Summary of the Northern District of Mississippi's Opinion and Order on Cowan et al. v. Bolivar County Board of Education et al.," Carr Calderon's Governmental Liability Focus, May 16, 2016.
- Arthur H. Calderon & Michael S. Carr, Fearing Fido: Recent Trends Involving First Responders, Man's Best Friend, and Damages, 9 Blue Review 22 (2015).
- "Introduction to the U.S. Legal System and Freedom of Speech from a Cross-Cultural Perspective", presentation to law school faculty delegation from John Paul II Catholic University, Lublin, Poland at Delta State University, Cleveland, MS, October 2, 2015.
- "Ethical and Liability Issues in Adult Drug Court", presentation to the Mississippi Association of Drug Court Professionals at its annual conference, Biloxi, MS, August 21, 2015.

# Wilkins Patterson

WILKINS PATTERSON SMITH PUMPHREY & DOTY, P.A.
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

DAVID E. STOVALL

Post Office Box 13429 Jackson, Mississippi 39236-3429

dstovall@wilkinspatterson.com

March 2, 2017

One LeFleur's Square, Suite 108 4735 Old Canton Road Jackson, Mississippi 39211-5526

> Phone: (601) 366-4343 Fax: (601) 981-7608 Toll-Free: 1-800-261-4617 www.wilkinspatterson.com

Ms. Lea Ann McElroy Mississippi Tort Claims Board 501 North West Street, Suite 1301-C Jackson, Mississippi 39201

RE: Tort Claims Approved Attorney Register Request

Dear Ms. McElroy,

As you may recall, we spoke a short time ago about my request to be added to the Tort Claims Approved Attorney Register. As instructed, I have included my resume for the Board's consideration. In addition, I meet the minimum number of years of experience, having been admitted to the Mississippi Bar on October 10, 2007. I am also in good standing with the Mississippi Bar Association.

Should you require any additional information or have any questions that I may address, please feel free to contact me. I appreciate your assistance with my request.

With kind regards,

TERSON

David E. Stovall

Enclosure

#### **DAVID E. STOVALL**

Post Office Box 13429 Jackson, Mississippi 39236

Licensed to Practice Mississippi Cell 601-573-5146 dstovall@wilkinspatterson.com

Education

Doctor of Jurisprudence, Mississippi College School of Law, May 2007 Master of Science, The University of Southern Mississippi, August 2004

Major: Instructional Technology

Bachelor of Arts, Mississippi State University, May 2003

Major: Communications with emphasis on Public Relations & Communication Studies

Associate of Arts, Hinds Community College, May 2000

Major: Emphasis in Biology

Experience

Associate Attorney, February 2017 - Present

Wilkins Patterson Smith Pumphrey and Doty, P.A., Jackson, Mississippi

Practice Areas: Automobile Accident Defense, Bad Faith Defense, Construction Defense and Consulting, Domestic Relations, Insurance Policy Coverage Opinions and Disputes, Insurer Examinations Under Oath, Labor and Employment, Litigation and Insurance Defense, Premises Liability, Trucking Accident Defense, Uninsured Motorist Defense, and Workers' Compensation Defense

Senior Staff Attorney, November 2014 - February 2017

Staff Attorney, January 2013 - November 2014

Mississippi State Personnel Board, Jackson, Mississippi

Responsibilities: Legislative monitoring and review of all bills introduced during each session; Assist with development and implementation of policies and procedures of the agency; Assist operations of the MSPB, Personal Service Contract Review Board, and Employee Appeals Board; Perform harassment and workforce training, and ethics and compliance training; Responsible for reviewing, recommending, and revising various agency correspondence, internal reports, memoranda, publications, and web-based materials

Associate Attorney, April 2008 - December 2012

Wilkins Tipton, P.A., Jackson, Mississippi

Practice Areas: Automobile Accident Defense, Bad Faith Defense, Construction Defense and Consulting, Domestic Relations, Insurance Policy Coverage Opinions and Disputes, Insurer Examinations Under Oath, Litigation and Insurance Defense, Premises Liability, Trucking Accident Defense, Uninsured Motorist Defense, and Wills and Estates

**Associate Attorney,** August 2007 – April 2008

Boackle Law Firm, PLLC, Ridgeland, Mississippi

Practice Areas: Real Estate Litigation, Contracts, and Closings

**Adjunct Instructor,** August 2004 – May 2008

**Business and Office Technology Department, Hinds Community College,** Pearl, Mississippi Classes Taught: Database Management, Business Math, Business Accounting, and Computerized Accounting



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GARY RIKARD, Executive Director
Department of Environmental Quality

#### **MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Mississippi Tort Claims Board

**FROM:** Lea Ann McElroy **DATE:** March 30, 2017

**RE:** Political Subdivisions – Certificates of Coverage

**RECOMMENDATION:** Staff recommends approval of 26 political

subdivisions shown on attached list.

Thursday, March 30, 2017

Political Subdivisions Recommended for Renewal of Certificate of Coverage

Alcorn County Fire Services Belden Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. Boyle City Clerk Clarksdale City Clerk

Fernwood Fire Department

**Fulton City Clerk** 

Harrison County Board of Supervisors

Indianola City Clerk

Issaquena County Board of Supervisors

**Jackson County Port Authority** 

Lewisburg Volunteer Fire Department

Mars Hill Volunteer Fire Department

Mississippi Municipal Liability Plan

Oak Vale Volunteer Fire Department, Inc.

Oktibbeha County Hospital

Region XIII Commission for Mental Health

Sharkey-Issaquena County Library Association

Simpson County School District

Southwest Mississippi Regional Medical Center

Taylorsville City Clerk

**Tunica County Board of Supervisors** 

**Tupelo City Clerk** 

Valley View Volunteer Fire Department

West Covington Volunteer Fire Department, Inc.

West Hancock Fire Protection District

West Madison Utility District

#### Total 26